spectrum. Ministry of Defence is consulted regarding their spectrum usage and vacation in GSM bands. A Group of Ministers (GOM) has also been constituted by the Government for "vacation of spectrum and raising resources for the purposes."

(d) to (f) A Committee in DoT has been constituted to recommend the revision of subscriber based spectrum allocation criteria for mobile services. The matter is *sub-judice* before Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Review of spectrum issues

1040. SHRMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister is seriously considering the issue of review of spectrum issues and has decided to review progress on the vacation of spectrum by the defence services for use by telecom operators, as well as on additional allocation to existing operators;

(b) if so, whether Prime Minister has received communication from Chairman Bharti Airtel and Reliance communication Ltd. On 6th November on allocation of spectrum;

(c) whether Prime Minister had given instruction during the review meeting for allocation of spectrum; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Prime Minister and the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Government is pursuing the vacation/release of spectrum from Defence services for unimpeded growth of public mobile telecom services. A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been set up on "vacation of spectrum and raising resources for the purposes".

(b) A D.O. letter no nil dated 6.11.07 addressed by the Chairman, Reliance Communications Limited to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, has been received. As regards receipt by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th November of communications from Chairman, Bharti Airtel, it is intimated that no such communication has been received.

(c) and (d) A Committee has been set up to recommend the revision of subscriber based criteria for allotment of 2G spectrum. However, the matter is *sub-judice* in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Tax from telecom service providers

1041. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom service providers have to pay upto 30 per cent of their revenues in taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to cut down the taxes in telecom sector?